

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of October 8, 2008 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 14 and 18 have been amended, and claims 1, 5, 6, 8-10, 21-24 and 26-29 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 14, 15, 18, 25, 30 and 31 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 22 includes allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, in order to place the claims in condition for allowance, base claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22. Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

On pages 2-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 21, 23, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa (US 6,504,254) in view of Miyako (US 6,486,565). In addition, on pages 5-7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 24, 25 and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa.

However, as indicated above, claims 1, 5, 6, 8-10, 21-24 and 26-29 have been cancelled, and independent claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22. In view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 14 is clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 14, as well as claims 15, 18, 25, 30 and 31 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

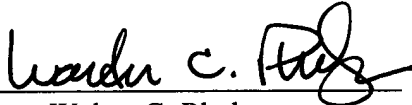
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining

which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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